

asterisk san francisco



Asterisk San Francisco

Throwback Issue

1912

A Modernized Classic

By Jeremy Joven



DESIGN: A Modernized Classic

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It is hard to imagine that San Franciscans after the great quake of 1906 didn't have much appreciation for Victorian-style houses, which many of the affluent residents rebuilt with Deco styles. Luckily, many of the 48,000 Victorians and Edwardians built between 1850 and 1915 still stand today, charming locals and tourists alike. Preserving 100-year-old homes is an unimaginable task. Restoring one to its original form is even more difficult with the loss of architectural archives after the fires. Still, it is not impossible to honor the beauty of these celebrated homes with a touch of modernization to help them last at least another century.

Interior designer Lucy Junus and her husband, an engineer, own a beautiful Victorian house in the historic row of houses on Shotwell Street built by the owner of Northstar Brewery.

Though she never imagined living in an old house before their purchase, she instantly fell in love with all the details and craftsmanship that a Victorian has to offer. In our tour of the house, we were dazzled by the simplest Victorian accents, from the ornate brass window handles to the antique door hinges and, of course, the mint-condition accented ceilings.

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Design Portfolio
lucyjunos.com

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Victorian homes were designed to have close quarters, with a small kitchen far away from the formal dining area. The original arrangement had small rooms divided into sections that extended through the length of the house from the front door. But as a designer, Junus envisioned a more open layout for her home, and decided to give her classic property a modernized appeal. By cleverly reappropriating rooms, Junus managed to bring in more light throughout the house as well as open the space for entertainment.

Junus retained the majority of the home's classic textured wallpapers, doorway cherub accents, and intricate ceiling moldings while adding a touch of sustainability by installing recessed LED lighting wherever possible without damaging the beauty of the space.

A state-of-the-art kitchen was installed to integrate the convenience of modern technology while still complementing the ornate styles of Victorian design.

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Her furnishings—minimal with Asian inspiration—instantly bring a warm feeling to a modernized classic, fitting her personal style and complementing the Victorian sensibilities of the old home. She's also remodeled the lower level of the house, where she works as an interior designer—an ideal place of creativity that any San Franciscan would be blessed to have. The result of her preservation and clever blending of old and new is a wonderful classic home fit for modern living, showcasing her talents in design and providing a warm, inviting place to enjoy San Francisco living.

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